

mxtra

10/2016
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THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE MAZDA MX-5 CLUB OF VICTORIA & TASMANIA

You can lead an MX-5 to water ... (and they did!)



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MX-5 Club
of Victoria

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Inside:

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10/2016

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Cover image: *Scenic beauty in south-western Tasmania ... oh, and Lake Pedder in the background!*
(Photo: Kelly Berggren)



Find us at:
**MX-5 Club of
Victoria**

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Pete's Perspective ...

■ Peter Dannock – President president@mx5vic.org.au

Discovering North-Eastern Victoria

Recently I continued my tour of the Club Chapters and joined the North Eastern Victoria Chapter for a run around the Hume Weir and through the Kiewa Valley.

The countryside was very green from the extensive recent rains and, though we experienced some rain, it didn't dampen our enthusiasm for roof-down motoring.

Starting at Yackandandah, we travelled up to see the spillway at the Hume Weir. There was plenty of water in the weir and, after travelling north towards Bethanga, you get a great view of the vastness of the weir and the surrounding picturesque countryside.

From there, Loz and Shane Thomas led us down some great roads towards Mt Beauty, where we stopped alongside the river for some morning tea. Turning right at Tawonga South, we headed up through Tawonga Gap towards Bright. Any time of year is a great time to be in Bright, with its tree-lined avenues.

The clouds still covered the mountains as we drove up Mt Buffalo for a lunch stop. We were fortunate that the clouds cleared to show a great view of the Ovens Valley below.

I had a great day's driving, covering 900 kilometres in a single day. Thanks to Loz and Shane for hosting me on the run and it was great to meet some members for the first time.

It was also terrific to see members from the Western Victoria Chapter come across

to join the run. The North Eastern Victoria Chapter was our first Chapter and, though it might be our smallest, it is a thriving and active part of the Club.

A Smug Mug

Highlighted on the front page of the Club's website is a link to the Club's photo gallery (mx5vic.smugmug.com). Hosted on the photo sharing site SmugMug, there is a large range of photos from Club activities, showcasing events across all of the Chapters.

There are many enthusiastic photographers in the Club who are more than happy to take photos at activities throughout the Club. Being able to then share those photos online gives all members a chance to see what the Club has been up to.

Take the time to visit the gallery on a regular basis to see new photos that have been added. I am sure you'll see a photo or two of yourself there.

Welcome Aboard!

I am delighted to welcome a new advertiser to **mxtra** – **Essendon Mazda**.

They now occupy the back cover of the magazine, and have also come on board to sponsor a team for the AROCA 10 Hour at Winton this month.

Many of you will know Club member and former Club Captain - Motor Sport, Daniel White. As General Manager of Essendon

For your diary ...

See the full calendar for details

October

- 15 NEV Walwa run
- 15 STas Curry dinner run
- 15-16 MS AROCA 10 Hour, Winton
- 16 WV Kyneton run
- 16 NTas Kochie's Kruise
- 21-14 EV 3 Peaks run
- 22 STas Tops Down for Breast Cancer
- 25 NEV Cope Hut/Wallace Hut run

November

- 6 CEN Great Ocean Road dawn run
- 13 EV Khanacross, Bryant Park
- 13 STas Rob Tanner's run
- 15-18 NEV Summit to Sea run
- 20 CEN Trentham run
- 22 EV Lunch & Lies, Noojee
- 26 MS Rd 8 + Interstate Challenge, Winton

Mazda, he would be more than happy to help you with any sales and service enquiries you may have.

Please support those who support the Club.

Catch you next month ...

Remember ... leave sooner, drive slower, live longer.

Pete

Mazda MX-5 'Fan Fest'

The anticipation is now building for the Mazda MX-5 Fan Fest to be held at Sandown Raceway on Saturday, 21 January 2017.

To celebrate the release of the one millionth Mazda MX-5 and the World Car of the Year, Mazda Australia will be holding a fan event for all enthusiasts of this much-loved roadster.

The day will include:

- » an opportunity to sign the one millionth MX-5
- » the new Mazda MX-5 RF (right), unveiled for the first time in Australia

- » the Global MX-5 Cup Cars live on the track
- » a chance to participate in on-track activities, including sprints and parade lap
- » Mazda MX-5 show and shine, open to all members
- » lots of other track side activities, food and fun.

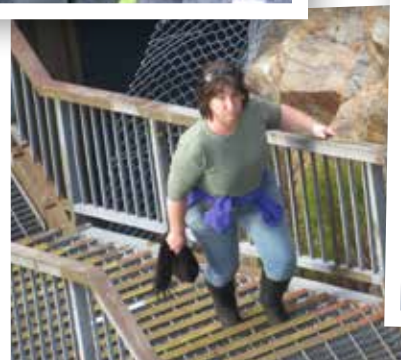
Come and join one of the biggest gatherings of Mazda MX-5s ever to be assembled in Australia.

Put the date in your calendar and you will receive your personal invite soon. ■



Scene about ...

■ Photos: Karen Bradshaw, Rob Tanner, Jill Steer





Randy's Rant ...



■ Randy Stagno Navarra – Club Captain - Motor Sport captain@mx5vic.org.au

We have a very busy last quarter of the year coming up. I'm sure everyone is all set to finish off the year strongly.

2016 City Mazda MX-5 Sprint Championship ~ Rd 7, Sandown – 3 September

After a bit of a lull in the Championship, 24 competitors made their way to Sandown for the latest round of our Sprint series. Unfortunately I couldn't take part but it gave me a great opportunity to catch up with everyone and meet a couple of excited new members.

After a damp start it ended up being a fantastic day. Lap records were broken in three classes and it was great to see

everyone having a blast. The most satisfying part of the day for me was receiving a text message at the end of the day from Alan Satalich, telling me how much he enjoyed his first track day.

Annual Vic-Tas/ NSW Interstate Challenge ~ Winton, 26 November

Hosted by the Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW at Winton (yes, Winton), this will be a great event as always. Entries should be open by the time this *mxtra* arrives in your inbox/letter box, so get in early to avoid missing a spot.

We are the holders of the Interstate Trophy and it would be great if we can go back-to-back.

MX-5 Sprint Championship Rules

So far I have received some very good feedback from Club members. It's great to see that quite a bit of thought has gone into the replies that have been sent in.

If you still have thoughts or suggestions for improving our rules, please get them to me by 11 November.

MX-5 Fan Day, 21 January 2017

This is a day that we should all be looking forward to. It is all go and Mazda Australia are putting their full weight behind it as they want the day to be a total success.

So it is up to us to make it happen. We will have the track to ourselves and Mazda are organising some additional track activity too. This is a national event so entries will be open to all MX-5 Clubs in Oz. Numbers will be limited. So can you please let me know if you are available for the day ASAP.

Vale Marg de Bont

I would like to pass on my, and the entire Motor Sport Team's condolences to a long-time friend and competitor Bob de Bont and his daughter Jessica. Margaret was an exceptional lady and she will be greatly missed.

"If you have everything under control, you're not moving fast enough!"

Randy

All members ...

AROCA 10 Hour, Winton ~ 15-16 October

We are pretty much all set for this event. Teams have been organised and now it's just a case of waiting for the event to start.

For those who aren't aware, the Winton 10 Hour is a two-day "regularity" event, run by the Alfa club, involving about 50 teams from many different clubs

It's like a marathon relay; depending on the number in each team, individual drivers circulate for 90-120 minutes or so before the next team member heads out.

Each driver tries to lap the track as closely as possible to their pre-set lap time. They pick up bonus laps or are penalised, depending on how closely they match their nominated time.

The Club has a proud history at the event, including two recent wins, several podium finishes - and even "best presented team" last year!

There are a lot of little jobs that need to be done to support the teams – around the pits, in the garages and trackside.

I'd like to ask any Club members who are free on that weekend to please come up and give us a hand and cheer the teams on.

The more helpers we can get, the lighter the work load for everyone.

If you can help on either day, please contact me ASAP on 0409 210 872 or captain@mx5vic.org.au ■

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Membership

Current membership count:

573 ..

and growing!

■ Will Campbell – Membership Officer membership@mx5vic.org.au

C'day again ...

My thanks to Dave Collins for looking after Membership in my absence. Much appreciated.

I've returned to another year of steady growth. This is helped by the current crop of new members – I wish those listed a hearty welcome and trust they will enjoy being part of our great Club.

Central Chapter

Bryan, Jan & David Holman	2009 Silver NC
Tom Sherborne	2005 Black NC
Sam Sharwood	2003 Classic Red NA
Alexander & Karen Somerset	2016 Soul Red ND

Eastern Victorian Chapter

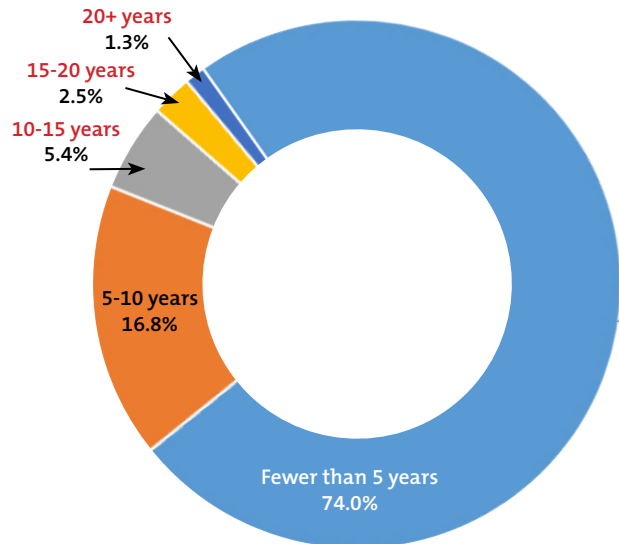
Morgan Fisher	1990 Classic Red NA
Peter Sansom & Emma Solberg	2004 Velocity Red NB SE

North-Eastern Victorian Chapter

Roy Kennedy & Franki Walsh	2002 Maroon NB
----------------------------	----------------

It's about this time each year that I have a look at Club statistics and I thought it would be interesting to start with a graph showing "Years of Membership" of the current membership.

Probably not surprising, a majority of our members have been in the Club for five or fewer years, but the proportion of those who stay longer has steadily increased.



Vale Margaret de Bont

Sadly, we report the passing of Marg de Bont, who lost her battle with cancer on 12 September. She was 55.

Marg, much-loved wife of Bob and mother of Jessica, was diagnosed with cancer on her birthday in June, 2015.

Like Bob, Marg was a fixture at many Club activities, attending events right up until August this year.

A strong showing of Club members remembered her positive attitude and contribution to the Club as they joined family and friends to farewell Marg in Epping on 20 September.

Bob and Jessica have asked that, should you feel inclined, you make a donation in Marg's name to "Challenge", an organisation dedicated to supporting kids with cancer.

If you choose, visit www.challenge.org.au, click on "How to Help" in the top navigation and then "In Lieu of Gifts" in the side navigation. ■



Enjoy your MX-5 and I'll see you out and about ...

Will

In case you missed it ...

[Drive.com.au](http://drive.com.au) recently celebrated the one millionth MX-5 with a classic American road trip, from Pikes Peak in Colorado to Pebble Beach in California, USA.

Check it out here: < <http://bit.ly/2dpnWv> >



Trading Post

For Sale -

ND wheels (with Yokohama Advan Sport tyres)



Wanted -

- » NB wheels
- » Mariner Blue NA
- » NA8 MX-5

For details of these and other items to buy, swap, sell or borrow, see the "Trading Post" page in the "Clubroom" section of the Club's website, mx5vic.org.au

New Club merchandise online shop

Looking for something different as an MX-5 Christmas present?

Check out the new Club Merchandise page where we have a wide range of polos, tees, shirts, caps, beanies, vests, jackets, number plate frames and number plate protectors.

On the Club page we can now also offer payments direct to the Club, via cheque, EFT and PayPal. With PayPal you can use your cash or credit card account.

These are in addition to the Mazda MX-5 merchandise normally available.

Find the link to both shops on the Club website at <http://mx5vic.org.au/clubroom/merchandise>.


To ensure delivery before Christmas please place your order early.

Contact Bruce Gray on 0478 219 856 or merchandise@mx5vic.org.au if you have any questions or problems accessing the site. ■

Merchandise

Visit our online shops!



You've bought the car, you've joined the Club ... now you can buy your Mazda MX-5 Club of Victoria & Tasmania merchandise online.




Mazda Merchandise Shop

This range includes clothing and accessories from the same Mazda Australia range that is available to Mazda dealers. Mazda items are all branded with the Mazda logo, and some also have the Club's logo. You can pay online (Misa, MasterCard, Amex, Diners or PayPal) and have your purchases delivered direct to you.



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Club Merchandise Shop

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Meet our Chapter Captains ...

Geoff Roche

Central
2006 True Red NC



When Bronwyn and I moved to Melbourne I soon discovered that, after years of fun on motor bikes, being a city motorbike rider was not for me. It was time to swap my two wheels for four. The MX-5 was a logical choice to continue that sense of fun and freedom.

We bought our first MX-5 – a 2003 Stratos Blue NB – in February 2010 and I joined the MX-5 Club the same month. We replaced the NB in June 2011 with a folding hardtop 2006 True Red NC, purchased sight-unseen in Adelaide; our first drive in it was back home!

We've been on many runs with all the Chapters (except Southern Tassie, but that will happen I'm sure), and have met some wonderful people and travelled some fantastic roads.

Come and enjoy this fabulous MX-5 Club experience – with the top down, of course! ❖

Lorelei (Loz) Thomas

North-Eastern Victoria
2007 True Red NC



Shane and I moved from Rockhampton to Bright in March 2012. Knowing that some of the best touring roads were on our doorstep it was only natural that we should get ourselves an MX-5. Going for a drive one Sunday we passed about six MX-5s coming in the opposite direction. I went home and googled "MX-5 club" ...

We are both motorcycle riders but I love driving the MX-5 with the top down – all the fun without having to get dressed in all the gear and getting helmet hair!

Since joining the Club we have met some wonderful friends and travelled many roads on the way to some beautiful locations. I love the Club's camaraderie and it was a huge honour when I was approached to be Chapter Captain in 2015. I'm hoping that we will be able to join in on other Chapters' runs (including Tasmania) in the near future. ❖

Ian Bradshaw

Western Victoria
2000 Black NB



Karen and I purchased our black NB Series 2 MX-5 in November 2009 and joined the Club after our good neighbours, the Everetts, convinced us that the Club was very social and friendly and that we would have a ball of fun.

It has surpassed our expectations!

Since we joined, we have travelled on many roads and visited many places that we would not have done had we not had the "MX". We have made many firm friends from across the state and enjoy the camaraderie of each run that showcases the MX-5's virtues.

Since purchasing the "MX" we have added a hot dog exhaust (so it now sounds grown up!), cold air intake and a spoiler kit. As the Western Victoria Chapter Captain, I hope to continue providing varying MX-5 runs and weekends and to get our members involved in these runs and events that are sociable and fun. ❖

Peter Ferguson

Eastern Victoria
1989 Classic Red NA & 2010
Crystal Pearl White NC



I went to join the Club in 2001 when I bought my first MX-5 (an '89 NA, red with 300K on the clock) and there was a foul up in the process – *I didn't get around to sorting it out until 2011!* That's 10 years of membership of this wonderful Club that I missed out on!

I joined as the Eastern Victoria Chapter was being formed and watched it grow quickly under first Grant Butler and then under Alan Laine. I had a few illnesses including prostate cancer in 2013-14, decided life was too short and bought another MX-5 – a 2010 NC2, white with BBS wheels and Recaro seats (*I dream of having one of each basic model so I'm halfway there*).

Of course when Alan decided it was time for a well-earned break, I got tapped on the shoulder and suddenly found myself busier than I wanted to be in my retirement. The Club has provided friendships, common interests and the opportunity to share some of our great Gippsland curves. ❖

Bruce Harvey

Northern Tasmxnia
2009 Competition
Yellow (Google it!) NC



Approaching 10 years' membership and I still get excited every time I get behind wheel of my MX-5. I am privileged to be a member of this car club and lucky to have Tasmania as a playground.

Tasmania now accounts for 15% of Club membership and I expect that number to grow significantly in the near future.

The success of NatMeet XII and the popularity of the ND along with the choice of a large number of people to seek early retirement in Tasmania will all contribute. A club is nothing without its members, and I am surrounded by the best.

If any of you ever want to visit and share the Tasmxnia experience there is always a bed available and, in the words of my mate *BI*: "It's all about the car ... and the people"! ❖

John Waldock

Southern Tasmania
1990 Classic Red NA &
2004 Velocity Red NB SE



I joined the Club after purchasing a red NA. I now have a second car (a red SE) and I'm looking covetously at the new RF.

Getting together with other owners and chatting about our cars and their interests is what keeps me coming back month after month. The feeling of the car growling as it accelerates and its balance and poise around corners are the great enjoyments of being a MX-5 owner. I love having the top down and the rush of air, smelling the countryside and hearing the exhaust note as I motor along.

Meeting others in the Chapter, and more widely within the Club, has been such a ball. I've made many new friends and learned so much about the mechanicals and history of the MX-5.

It's been great to watch the Chapter in Southern Tasmania grow and become more successful. We have such a diverse range of people in the group and I get so much pleasure seeing new members with their enthusiasm. ❖

Chapter chatter ...

4.9.16 | Eastern Victoria ■ Words & organiser: Peter Ferguson ■ Photos: Gordon Robertson (non-Club member)

Sunday 4 September 2016 was Father's Day.

What better way for Dad to celebrate "his" day than to do something he loves (like a khanacross) and have his child come along to watch in rapturous fascination at Dad's enormous skill levels, or even better, compete also ... but of course, let Dad win!

In all, we had five sons competing and one daughter (Kirsty Moore).

There was about 30 entries overall – many from Gippsland Car Club plus about half a dozen from the Sprite club. The MX-5 entrants were Mark Stackpoole, Ryan Stackpoole, Geoff Pitt, Jarrah Pitt, David Salter, Dave Moore, Ron Diprose and Peter Ferguson.

Oh, and David Salter's son, Mat, in the WRX which trounced us all!!

Another Club member, Mark Manns, was also there with his two sons and they were all sharing a Datsun (remember them?) Stanza.

As we always promise, the Eastern Chapter ensures no rain for events – we have "designer rain" in Gippsland – it falls at nights and on days other than when we

have an event on. However we stuffed up a bit with the wind – it was very cold and coats and hats were the order of the day.

We got five runs in – a clockwise and anti-clockwise on the "big" loop, a clockwise on the main track and a clockwise and anti-clockwise in the car park.

Dave Moore and his lovely daughter Kirsty Moore were there and this was the first time Dave had tried this kind of event – his tyres (like everyone's, but his especially as they were R specs) were fairly useless as there was no heat to be had. So he had a spin or two (caught on in-car video by Kirsty!) and carried a navigator in a few of the runs to help him not get lost. Didn't help him much on run #3 where he "forgot" to do about 40% of the track!!

Ron Diprose went "gardening" down at the crossover and had to be dragged out but, fortunately, the only damage was his pride.

A couple of stand-out performances need to be mentioned.

» First Mat Salter, David's son, running

a WRX, took out second overall – *not exactly letting Dad win!* He is consistently quick and the WRX seems ideally suited to this kind of event.

- » The other was the rapidly-improving Jarrah Pitt who beat Dad and most of the rest of the MX-5ers with a very quick and neat overall day, blemished only by one *wrong direction* (and temporary removal of the front lip!). Definitely one to watch for the future – a quick and tidy driver.
- » Mark Stackpoole in his NC, was the only Dad who managed to beat his son and came in fastest of all MX-5s – a very good drive. David Salter (third of the MX-5s) continues to improve, as does his car which has received a lot of tinkering in recent times and is looking and performing very tidily.

Another great day, very well run by the GCC. The next khanacross is 13 November – this will be the last for 2016 so make sure you come along if you are thinking of having a try. **You should!** ●

Father's day khanacross



^ *Gettin' ready to get ready ...*

^ *David Salter, Ryan Stackpoole*



↖ Clockwise from the top: Dave Moore, Peter Ferguson, Ron Diprose, Jarrah Pitt, Mark Stackpoole

Chapter chatter ...

11.9.16 | Eastern Victoria ■ Words: Lori Mercieca ■ Photos: Peter Ferguson ■ Organiser: Nic Bodey



We started our run on Saturday morning leaving Melbourne on a dull and miserable day to meet up with the four cars from the Western Chapter at the Mazda head office in Mulgrave led by Ian and Karen Bradshaw.

Everybody was on time so we headed off at 11.30am. Before long we were off the freeway and heading for the picturesque MX-5 roads. (Mary was already wondering why we couldn't just use the freeway).

The weather was still miserable but that didn't matter. We stopped at Poowong for lunch and travelled along the great roads to Sale (with a few U-turns involved and a fair stretch of unmade road) with everyone

enjoying the run ... except for Mary as she was feeling car sick (she forgot to bring her travel sickness tablets).

We arrived at the Comfort Inn in Sale, a motel we would highly recommend

for the exceptional size and cleanliness of the rooms; I was very happy there was a car wash right across the road, and anyone who knows me knows that I don't like to drive a dirty car. So while I was washing the car everyone



^ Outside the Dargo pub



back at the motel was having a well-deserved coffee, or some vino (some smart people (Evans) had brought along some bottles, much to Mary's delight. We then made our way across the road (very handy and great work on Leeanne's part for booking *Brewhouse69* for a very long table for 25 people) where we enjoyed some of the best beef we have tasted, apparently from the farm 3km up the road, and much more vino and very yummy sweets. We enjoyed this day so much that there is a possibility of next year's run incorporating some of Saturday (two-day run).

After such a miserable day on Saturday, we could not believe our eyes when we woke on Sunday, and pulled back the curtains to see the most glorious morning with no wind and beautiful blue sky (*Peter Ferguson MUST have friends upstairs*).

We met up with the rest of the cars at Stratford. The run was led by Nic Bodey (now on P-plates, after the previous two years on L-plates), who owns a beautiful 27-year-old NA that looks like new, assisted by dad John, and of course Tail-end Trish doing her wonderful job at the rear of the pack.

The road to Dargo was fantastic except where there

was cow manure over the road, and of course I ended up with it up the sides and under the car – *very smelly!* There was a stretch of the road where we saw a dead roo on the other side and it wasn't until later in Dargo that we found out that the rider of a three-wheeled motorbike (Canam), who had nowhere to go except over the roo, was very lucky that he had not been injured.

The Dargo pub was a wonderful location to end the run and for a great meal – very generous meals I must add. Mary and I had the beef and Guinness pie, which was huge and tasted great. We ate the lot!

Luckily Mary had taken her

travel sickness tablet and thoroughly enjoyed the run. The sun was still shining brightly and we had a stroll around the beautiful little town.

The last stop was Stratford where we had coffee, but of course I had to wash the car again (luckily, another car wash across the road) as the smell was getting worse.

Thanks to everyone involved in organising the run and getting us away from the big smoke and seeing parts of this wonderful state of ours that we have never seen.

Book us in again for next year, Danno! ●



^ ... and the long dinner the night before!

Chapter chatter ...

10-12.9.16 | Western Victoria ■ Photos: Karen Bradshaw ■ Organisers: Karen & Ian Bradshaw

10 September:

Our day trip to sale to meet up with the Eastern Victoria Chapter for the Dargo Run

■ Karen Bradshaw

We were up nice and early for a leisurely run to Sale where we were staying the night so that we could join the Eastern Chapter for their Dargo run.

Everetts and Bradshaws met up with Gwenda and Lucas (who had come down from Maryborough) at the Buninyong rotunda. On our way we had a quick cuppa at the BP servo on the Ring Road then it was on to meet Lori and Mary at Mazda HQ at 11.30am.

Once we picked them up it was on to Poowong for lunch – *a wee bit cold, but better than at Loch.*

We then travelled the scenic route to Mirboo North, Boolarra, Yinnar to Traralgon where we met up with the members from the Eastern Chapter.

We then travelled up the highway to Sale (boring!) and our digs for the night – the *Comfort Inn*. A great day's driving, even though it was tops up and raining part of the time.



The long weekend run to the long lunch

✓ *On the road to Sale ... Mary & Lori Mercieca, Ian Bradshaw, Gwenda Parkinson, Alan & Dawn Everett and Lucas Fitt*



12 September:

Our trip home from Sale after the Dargo Run

■ Dawn Everett

We left the *Comfort Inn* at Sale at 9.20am with four cars on a cool and rainy morning, calling in at the local servo to fuel up for our scenic long way home via the Willowgrove Road then Noojee .

We had lunch at Healesville and left there about 1pm for home via Diggers Rest and Bacchus Marsh. We arrived at Ballarat for a cuppa but the café on Ring Road was closed. So we said our goodbyes and headed home.

We had another wonderful weekend, lovely company and excellent weather as we always do on our runs. Thanks again to Karen and Ian for organising another wonderful trip. ●

The MX-5 Club Grill

Introducing ...

Rhys Jewell

Central Chapter

Name? Rhys Jewell

Age? 41

Born? 1974, Melbourne

Current abode? Balwyn North

Profession? Lawyer (but don't hold that against me)

Partner? Alexis

Pets? Only two small children

Fave food? Anything Alexis cooks – she knows what she's doing

Can you cook? The BBQ is my friend

Favourite tippie? A cold beer or Campbells of Rutherglen Bobbie Burns Shiraz

First drive? The parents' Holden HQ

First car? 1970 144 Volvo (short-lived, for obvious reasons)

First fender bender? Dad's Holden HX ute – wet road, silly young driver

Everyday driver? Volkswagen Polo GTI (another light and sharp drive)

How many MX-5s have you owned? Just the one

Current MX-5? Silver 1992 NA

MX-5 improvements? None on mine – keeping it simple

MX-5 dislikes? Not enough exhaust note

Why an MX-5? Roof down fun and more reliable than my previous convertible (a 1968 MGB)

Fluffy dice? Not on my watch!

Passions besides the MX-5? Alexis, the kids (and refer above to "favourite tippie")

Favourite TV show / movie / book? Seinfeld/The Godfather/Elon Musk biography (do yourself a favour)

Dream wheels (money no object)? Mercedes-AMG GT

Would you drive a Daewoo or SsangYong? Not if anyone would see me doing it

Favourite other Mazda? Probably the early RX-7s

If not a Mazda (gasp!), then what? My trusty Volkswagen

How long in the Club? Six years



Above: Rhys with motor sport legend Mark Skaiffe.



Left: "RMHJ" preparing for the "celebrity lap" at the 2015 AGP.

How many MX-5 Club runs or track events? Many

Favourite Club run/track? Reefton Spur or GOR

Funniest thing seen at a Club event? An anonymous Club member forgetting to pull on the handbrake at The Pines rendezvous for the Reefton Spur run. Funny because it was only nearly a catastrophe

Have you been to NatMeet? Not yet

Ford vs Holden? Holden

What's playing in your MX-5? Very little – but otherwise the album "Lost in the Dream" by indie rock band "The War on Drugs"

Favourite holiday destination? Blairgowrie

Footy team (AFL / NRL / A-League)? Essendon all the way. Next year is the comeback!

Final comments? The MX-5 is the modern classic convertible sports car. The success of the Club is testament to there still being so many people who truly love driving involvement and enjoyment. ■

Chapter chatter ...

17-18.9. 16 | Northern Tasmxnia ■ Photos: Kelly Berggren, Alana McDougall, Bruce Harvey, Jill Steer, Richard Wasson

Carl and I have been meaning to get to Strathgordon for over 20 years, so I was thrilled that it was the overnighter run this year. The drive down over the Lakes was as fun as always, but it was the drive into Lake Peddar that was simply stunning. The road took us from the lush green bush, to bare alpine hills, followed by huge crags so close you could practically touch them! Then it opened out into a panorama of lake / hills / mountains that wound on and on.

The mountains in the distance are rough and sharp – the area felt wild and remote, and I could imagine a Tassie Tiger just stepping out of the bush at any moment. Once we arrived at the dam, we saw it was huge! The entire lake was otherworldly, and being able to walk across the dam was thrilling – looking over the edge was a tad scary! We had a wonderful dinner back at the lodge, and then Carl hooked us a tour of the power station (another 20-year goal attained!) which was simply amazing. Big thanks to Matt and Cam for the tour and to Bruce for organising such a memorable trip.

Kelly



"mxtra"

Mazda MX-5
Club of Victoria
PO Box 7438
Beaumaris
VIC 3193



Up over the mountains, along the plains, down through historic towns and into the rainforest, driving over some incredible roads.

On completion of our journey Lake Peddar and Lake Gordon came into view. Some were brave and enjoyed the walk along the dam wall while most appreciated the view from above.

Pedder Wilderness Lodge welcomed us for the night with impressive music, food and beverages. What an amazing state we have to play in.

Alana



mxtra

Mazda MX-5



- M**agnificent - most amazing scenery
- A**mazing - food and wine
- Z**oom zoom zoom
- D**elightful company ... including some fun during the Swannies' Game
- A**wesome ... just loved *everything* about Pedders

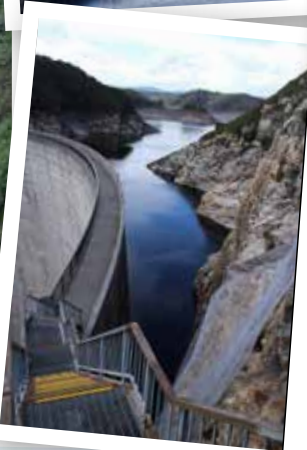
- M**oorish ... want to do it again
- X**traordinary ... rocking up to the servo to fill up (both ways)
- S**o nice to spend more than five hours with everyone

Cherie





Lake Pedder weekend



As a fairly new member, participating in the overnight run gave me the opportunity to get to know my fellow chapter members in a more relaxed environment and was a great trip back down memory lane.

Whilst the earlier part of the run is as familiar to me as the back of my hand, the trip along windy roads and river flats from Westerway to Maydena before taking the road less travelled to Strathgordon was a joy.

The scenery in this area made me (and my car) seem very small. In one word Magic.

Glenda



*mxtra
Mazda MX-5
Club of Victoria
PO Box 7438
P*



It doesn't matter which direction you head in Tasmxnia ... the journey and the vista will leave you breathless.

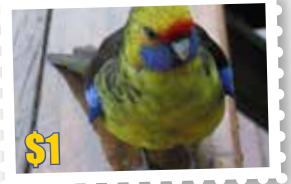
When you add in 18 friends and their MX-5s, the wow factor increases exponentially.

The section of road starting in Bothwell and ending 30km later in Hamilton is liberally laced with warning signs indicating the best corner speed is 55 or 60kmh.

I now understand these warnings are for oncoming traffic in awe of the sight of a convoy of MX-5s flowing unimpeded and safely in the opposite direction.

It was that good that we did it again in the opposite direction coming home – both times without a single vehicle heading in our direction. Thanks St Christopher!

Bruce



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Chapter chatter ...

19.9.16 | Southern Tasmania ■ Words: Don Nicoll ■ Photos: Rob Tanner, John Waldo

The weather in Hobart over the preceding days to the Saturday run to Oatlands had been far from promising.

A couple of days of good soaking rains and a forecast of a sunny morning, followed by the possibility of thundery showers, did not bode well for an afternoon barbeque.

However, one thing was for certain: if the sun was out it would be warm. Since moving here we've

Don's Oatlands run ...

noticed that the sun has a certain sting to it that we never really experienced living in Melbourne. Something to do with a shortage of ozone over the southern half of Tasmania.

And so it was on Saturday morning as we gathered at Rosny Park bowling club, that a blue sky and a warm sun greeted the 15 cars and 27 members of the Southern Tasmanian Chapter. There were a couple of minor deviations to the normal pre-run procedure as your correspondent handed out run notes. Not normally required down here, as getting lost is an uncommon occurrence. However the notes did contain a few questions for the navigators which relied on the pilot setting the trip meter to zero before leaving the car park. Prizes were on offer for those who were able to answer the most questions either correctly or with a degree of inventiveness that surpassed that of the organisers (*to which we'll return later in this report*).

The first part of the run east of the city out to Sorell, proceeded with minimal interference from the Saturday morning traffic which allowed most to answer the questions en route. A left turn on to the Orford road provided an opportunity to regroup before the more inventive of our group tackled the challenge of the number of sheep occupying a paddock at 25km. Lots? *A mob?* But, about 200 was probably the best guess based on the area occupied by 20 and then multiplied upwards. Although some smart person, who shall remain anonymous (RT?), did suggest one *loner* had been missed in the top corner of the paddock.

A left turn on to the Levendale road offered an opportunity to blow a few cobwebs away and to witness some lovely countryside. The winter rains had provided lush pasture to contrast with the deep greens and blues of the wooded hilltops.

It's tempting to compare the winding road between Levendale and Whitefoord (*not misspelt*) to roads in



✓ Host Don Nicoll turns a snag ...



^ Carla Long



^ Jo Hirst and John Hadrill



Organisers & hosts: Don & Linda Nicoll



^ L-R: Southern Tasmania Chapter Champion Rob Tanner, 5-year member Ian Long, Chapter Captain John Waldoock and 5-year member Caz Timbrell



^ Lunch at Café Nicoll ...

some of the best parts on the UK or Switzerland but in truth, nothing in Europe compared with this, especially when you consider that we didn't come up against one car going the same way over the best part of 50km. The road was ours to such an extent that the Chapter Captain had time to stop to photograph his car against the backdrop of an old barn and still maintain his duties at the rear of the convoy.

Meanwhile the run leader made many attempts to contact the café in Oatlands to advise the number seeking sustenance, as had been arranged with the owner on a recce run two weeks previously. The lack of response was explained on arrival in Oatlands. The café was closed and so was the pub to which it belonged. Fortunately Oatlands is not restricted to one café and the owners of the *Saddlery* tea rooms benefitted financially from the MX-5 Club's invasion.

Back on the road after the potty break (again anonymity required here), the group headed back towards Hobart down the Coal River Valley to Cambridge, where we completed the loop before heading south to Sandford for a Club-sponsored barbeque at the Nicolls'.

First our grateful thanks to the Club for contributing to the costs of the supplies. Which brings us to the quiz results and the other less subtle reason for the barbeque, the run calendar. The quiz was won by Lyndsay, Duncan and Isabel, Cameron and Jo with apologies to all five because I can't recall who was first, second and third. Wine, kindly donated by the Chapter Captain from his vast cellar, was the winner's reward. When the organisers had conceived the quiz, they had not foreseen the powers of observation displayed by this enthusiastic group. It was therefore necessary to allow two answers to each of the questions relating to Hobbits and Royal residences and some flexibility on the sheep question (*you had to be there!*).

The opportunity was also taken for the Captain to hand out 'years of membership' badges (sorry folks, I was at the barbeque so I didn't note who was receiving what) as well as Rob Tanner's Chapter Champion award.

Finally thanks to those who volunteered to organise runs, which means we are close to having a full calendar to the end of the Club year together with some good ideas for future events.

With food eaten, the prizes distributed and the run calendar filled in, the BoM promise came true and it began to rain! ●

Chapter chatter ...

18.9.16 | Central ■ Words: David Wilson (SMURFR) ■ Photos: Jon Waters, Michael Johnson, Phillip Menezes, Bronwyn & Geoff

Want to test your relationship?

The morning was wet and miserable and seemed to get colder the later it got.

But it didn't stop seven MX-5s from gathering at Yan Yean Reservoir for what was going to be an interesting drive. This wasn't your usual follow the leader run.

Oh no ... this was a navigation run!

Only one car was riding solo and the rest of us had secured a navigator for the day. As we huddled together under the protection of a pergola we were each handed three items. A map, navigation run notes including questions to be answered along the way, and a sealed envelope with cheat sheets inside.

The rules of the day were explained and we were set on our way. *This is when the fun began!*

There were two different routes handed out so following another car wasn't going to help anyone navigate the course. We had to fend for ourselves. Being the best at navigating it was decided that I would take the passenger seat for this drive. It was a bit weird not driving my own car but it ensured we made it from A to B. It was also a bit strange leaving the car park

alone with no one in front or behind us. But with the map in hand and satnav on, we headed out into the relative unknown.

The run notes gave us *North South East West* directions for entering and exiting intersections. So it was imperative that we **didn't turn our maps around!**

The route took us through towns such as Arthurs Creek, Yarra Glen and Healesville where the staff at the tourist information were more than helpful in answering some of our questions. The answers to other questions were found along the way, as long as we didn't miss them being too busy with our heads in the map and trying to stay two turns ahead of the car. Apparently *Google* came in handy in answering some of the questions missed!

The roads were relatively quiet which was great. At times it was just us which made you question whether we were going the right way. We were of course as my navigation skills are second to none!

As we wound our way around the course through Toolangi and Kinglake there were many distractions such as antique shops, tea and coffee houses and massive



chocolate shops ... all trying to lure us in and make us lose our way. But we remained strong and focused and kept going. *Unfortunately so did the rain!* We stopped in Kinglake for a cuppa (we brought a thermos) and met up with others looking for more answers. From here the course took us through Whittlesea and then back to Yan Yean reservoir for a BBQ lunch.

Three hours and 125km later (we really did take our time), we were the second-last car to return. We were met with cheers from our fellow MX-5ers as I triumphantly set down my map, run/questions sheet and still sealed envelope



^ A wet start ... middle ... and finish!



Roche ■ Organisers: Katrina and John Palmer



to be checked. We as a team had successfully completed the navigation run without wanting to kill each other.

It was time for a well earned hamburger cooked on John's tiny picnic BBQ and a drink as we compared notes with others. Not all sealed envelopes came back in the same condition ... *although I'm not one to name and shame (a certain white NC)!*

Thanks to John and Katrina for a fun and interesting drive.

See you on the road. ●



▲ Dave, Arthur, Phillip and Bill find shelter around Arthur's navigator, ~~Go~~ David



▲ Definitely a roof-up day ... / Don't turn the map around! / Go Google! / Friends at the start ... and the end!

Chapter chatter ...

24.9.16 | Western Victoria ■ Words & photos: Karen Bradshaw ■ Organisers: Karen & Ian Bradshaw



Well, we were at it again ... zooming around the countryside in our MX-5s.

We left home to pick up the Everetts on the way; we usually have to call in to give them a *hurry up* but this time they were at the gate five minutes early! This time they were in the Mariner Blue NA, so it must be the True Red NC that has them running late for runs as they mostly use that one.

We arrived at *Wilson's Orchard Café* at the Lucas shopping centre to meet up with the rest of the happy zoomers. It was a bit chilly so we warmed up with a quick cuppa.

Captain "Little Sh*t" welcomed three cars from Central Chapter – it was great to see them. We also welcomed prospective new members Margaret and Brian on their first run (they later told us they were definitely joining the Club as they had had so much fun). Lucas came from Maryborough with his niece to do the run ... *to Maryborough!* How's that for dedication!

Thus we headed off with 13 bright little jelly beans (two cars didn't turn up by 9.35am), going the long way to Maryborough through Windemere, Learmonth (Lake Learmonth actually has some water in it), on through Coghills Creek and its wineries, Clunes – we had to do a U-turn to get to Clunes, and Craigie, arriving at our destination 10.45am.



✓ *Bill Roder & Ian McInnes*



^ *Virgie Hocking & Dawn Everett*



Ponies ...



... rust buckets ...





Grand old Maryborough Station

We all headed for the car show and shine (*there were no "Wings" – that part of the event had been washed out*) to peruse the many and varying cars on display ... cars in varying states of repair from top-notch finishes to rust buckets that still went. We even saw a car receiving a special design paint job.



Not long after we arrived we met up with Mary who had missed us at Lucas, and so went straight up the highway and beat us there! After checking the cars out we visited the majestic historical railway station – not a train in sight!

... garage queens ...

The show and shine was all packed up and gone by 12.30pm so it was time to graze. We assembled at the outdoor amphitheatre next door; no-one was willing to do a performance though! Probably too busy munching and yakking. Jodie from Bendigo met us at the car show and came over to talk as she had seen our MX-5s all lined up in the street and was looking for one of her own. She was put in touch with the Todds by our Captain (Jodie bought their car on Sunday so we hope to see her on a run very soon).



Kevin got the job of leading the pack back to Ballarat as Ian and I were off to Corowa to zoom around with the North Eastern Victoria Chapter on Sunday.

Just a short run this time around to Maryborough, but with great cars, great people a great time was had by all.

Can't wait for the next zooming adventure! ●



... and a special paint job.

Chapter chatter ...

25.9.16 | North-Eastern Victoria ■ Words: Loz Thomas ■ Photos: Marg Gillick, Karen Bradshaw ■ Organiser: Loz

What a wet winter and now continuing into spring! It was yet another overcast day when we gathered in Yackandandah, all hoping that the rain would stay away at least until later in the afternoon.

We welcomed the president himself, Peter Dannock, who got off to a very early start from Melbourne to join us. Peter Bosanko from Colbinabbin was also on the road by 5.30am. Ian and Karen Bradshaw from Western Victoria Chapter also joined us after having stayed overnight with the Gillicks in Corowa. Ron commented that the two Peters should have stayed with them so *he would have some decent male company to talk to!*

To begin proceedings the well-deserved Chapter Champion was announced – Marg Gillick. Thanks Marg for all the articles you write and the photos you take, and always done with a smile! Also we recognised 10 years' membership for Stuart James. Stuart and Sue were in Queensland, no doubt enjoying a warmer sunnier winter than we Southerners. Andrew and Marjorie Johns have been members for five years but couldn't make today's run, so their badges are in the mail. *Congratulations!*

Without further ado, seven cars left Yackandandah, some with tops down and heaters on, others opting to keep the tops up as the clouds looked menacing.

One benefit with all the rain is that the countryside could not possibly have looked any greener or any more beautiful. Dams both small and large were full – which meant a change of plan. It had been six years since the spillway gates of Hume dam were opened, so this was the first stop of the day. We were a few days late and missed seeing the gates open but there was still a torrent of water gushing



◀ Marg Gillick with Club President, Peter Dannock



^ Chapter Captain Loz Thomas (left) with Gerald Gill, Shane Thomas, Western Victoria Chapter Captain Ian Bradshaw and Ron Gillick





Thomas

Mt Buffalo run



downstream. Walking across the dam wall provided spectacular views east to Lake Hume and west to the Murray River.

After taking lots of photos, we all put the tops down and followed the shoreline of the lake towards Bellbridge and Kurrajong Gap lookout where we stopped to admire the great views of the lake and take a group photo.

From here Shane decided that he would go a different route from the one I had planned and yes, you guessed it – we took a very scenic 25km detour to Bethanga – only to find that we had just completed a big circle and were back at the beautiful lookout once again. *We do big U-turns in the north-east!*

Back on the original route again, we headed to Gundowring and then alongside the fast-flowing Kiewa River to Tawonga where we had a late morning tea. Leaving Tawonga we headed over the Gap towards Bright. The skies had cleared and we had a great run up to Mt Buffalo – right up until we got behind some old guy in a campervan who was doing less than 10kmh and who wouldn't pull over!

Picnic lunch was at the Chalet with beautiful views to the Ovens Valley. We worked off some of the lunch with a bushwalk to the fast-flowing gorge waterfall. We then had a fast descent back to Porepunkah with a bit of a scare for Ron and Marg (who were tail-end Charlie) when two deer ran out in front of them! None of the six cars in front even saw them.

To end the day we stopped at the *Bright Berry Farm* to sit in the sun and enjoy warm blackberry pies and cream before bidding each other farewell until next time. ●



Sandown in September

■ Words: Mr Constantine Rodd ■ Photos: Con Rod and John Poletti

Off to Sandown with our mates from the Alfa club and the V8 Supercars two weeks later at the same venue have nothing on this crew.

It is in fact reported that Sandown is one of the oldest racing circuits still in use in Victoria today. And, in the words of a noted motor racing commentator, it is a place that rewards commitment.

If you have never been there, it looks pretty simple ... *but it's not.*

On a flying lap you come down the long straight, brake hard as late as possible and then turn left at the slightly off-camber *Newman-Lloyd*. Blast up a short straight then a quick but very tricky right and left at *Reed* before the all-important turn onto the long back straight at *Heritage*.

Fly up the back straight, over the top of the hill followed by a high-speed sweeping left and right at *Emery*, then slight left again at *Seymour* before hard on the anchors for sharp left at *Reid*.

Then down the short *Ledwith* straight, through the (apparently very technical) kink at *Princey* followed quickly by an equally tricky right and left at *Downes* before the all-important run over the bridge at *Conrad* back on to the main straight.

Other Club members may note the unusual coincidence that many of the track's key points have names the same as some of our motor sport participants.

After a slightly damp start it turned into a magic day for motor sport and the fun started, albeit with a minor early delay due to a non-Mazda dropping a very significant amount of oil on to the track which necessitated a red flag and subsequent clean up.

Also sadly, young Dean Monik had a wee moment over the top of the back straight early on and unfortunately scratched Dad's immaculate (and we mean *immaculate*) NB. Thankfully Dean was OK and hopefully it will not too long before we see Team Kyalami back on the track. Rumour has it that there might even be a sunglasses sponsorship deal in the wind.

Meanwhile, not-so-young Noel Heritage was cruising around lamenting the absence of both his favourite target (living legend Max Lloyd ... on a six- to nine-month sabbatical in Mother England) and, even more so (and along with a lot of others as

well), the lack of cake for morning and afternoon tea usually supplied by Max's lovely wife Lesley (*hurry back Lesley!*).

Robert Downes in his Benneton-inspired long-suffering NA8 was sporting new wider rubber in his ongoing assault on the NA Supercar, sorry, NA Super Clubman class.

New Club Captain - Motor Sport, Randy, had his first baptism of fire and did a great job.

Paul Ledwith did a few laps before having to leave early, leaving Russell Garner and Dean "Tesla" Watchorn to do battle. Dave Moore was quick when he was going but the dreaded electrical gremlins struck again.

Our flying *Provedore*, young Dean Hasnat, was moving quicker than a red hot curry followed by an AK47 chaser. *Team NZ* (Gavin Newman) was going well and our spies advise overall a good day at Turn 1 (ie, Newman-Lloyd ... *hint*).

Peter Dannock, Leon Bodgers and Simeon Ouzas all continue to improve and a certain black NB was also seen to be starting to move up the ranks. New suspension and (and might we say about time too!) new tyres are starting to have an impact.

Good to see Murray Seymour back at the track plus a couple of new faces who all seemed to have a good day. Hope you enjoyed.

Three new lap records were set on the day. Well done to:

- » **Robert Downes** NA Super Clubman
- » **Tim Edwards** Standard ND
- » **Russell Garner** Super Modified

The next key event for the Motor Sport Team is the 10 Hour at Winton which is looming fast, with the Club fielding three teams all eager to do well.

If you would like to see something different, come for a drive to Winton just outside Benalla on the weekend of 15-16 October. The 10 Hour really is a great event – if you have never been before, you will be amazed at the number of people and the number and sheer variety of cars on the track. ●



2016 City Mazda MX-5 Sprint Championship | Round 7 ~ 4.9.16

Spring Racing ...



^ Dean Watchorn waits to take to the track



2016 City Mazda MX-5 Sprint Championship | Round 7 ~ 4.9.16

Championship standings after Round 7 | Sandown ~ 4.9.16

(corrected points)	1st		2nd		3rd	
Overall Champion	Dean Hasnat	» 67	Russell Garner	» 66	Noel Heritage	» 64
Open	Dave Moore	» 51	David Wilken	» 30	---	
Restricted Open	Paul Ledwith	» 40	Tim Meaden	» 23	Steve Schreck	» 7
Super Modified	Russell Garner	» 66	Dean Watchorn	» 40	Robert Parr	» 28
Modified	Dean Hasnat	» 67	Gavin Newman	» 34	Daniel Luong	» 32
NA Clubman	Robert Downes	» 67	Tim Emery	» 17	George Vellis	» 14
NB Clubman	Noel Heritage	» 70	Max Lloyd	» 41	Peter Dannock	» 38
Standard ND	Tim Edwards	» 10	---		---	
Standard NC	Alan Conrad	» 50	Ian Vague	» 21	Daniel Sadique	» 17
Standard NB	Simeon Ouzas	» 54	Steve Williamsz	» 34	Ben Mott	» 10

Results: Round 7 | Sandown ~ 4.9.16

	1st		2nd		3rd	
Open	Dave Moore	» 1:30.2960	---		---	
Restricted Open	Paul Ledwith	» 1:27.7044	---		---	
Super Modified	Russell Garner	» 1:28.5309*	Dean Watchorn	» 1:29.5191	---	
Modified	Dean Hasnat	» 1:31.3106	Gavin Newman	» 1:33.0538	Leon Bogers	» 1:36.4676
NA Clubman	Robert Downes	» 1:36.8846*	George Vellis	» 1:42.9840	---	
NB Clubman	Noel Heritage	» 1:34.8735	Peter Dannock	» 1:36.6485	John Reid	» 1:37.7007
Standard ND	Tim Edwards	» 1:34.7597*	---		---	
Standard NB	Simeon Ouzas	» 1:37.1123	Steve Williamsz	» 1:38.5705	---	* New Club lap record

Burson automotive products at trade prices



Current financial Club members can purchase automotive parts, tools, accessories and car care products at trade prices from Burson Auto Parts stores.

Simply ask for your discount when you purchase, present your current membership card and quote account number **112558**.

Burson Auto Parts have more than 100 outlets on the east coast. Check out the range at www.burson.com.au

Repco VIP Club retail discount



Financial MX-5 Club members may join the **Repco VIP Club** for 10% off full retail at any time, and up to another 30% off full retail with advertised offers.

Enter your details at <http://vip.repco.com.au/registration/register/1160>.

You'll receive a temporary "VIP" card via e-mail, with a plastic barcoded card and key tag following within 14 days.

Repco will e-mail you online catalogues and offers.



Breathe life into your convertible top

Renovo offers all Mazda MX-5 Club members a **10% discount** on all their products.

For more information, call **0430 164 123** or e-mail renovo@bigpond.com

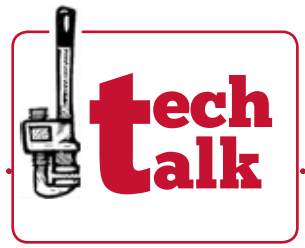


Car care products - member discounts

Waxit Car Care in Tullamarine is offering Club members 12.5% off all products (**excluding already-discounted kits and the following brands/products:** Polishangel, Vikan, Flex and Concours 900 Polisher).

Check out the Waxit range and order online at www.waxit.com.au. Our Club coupon code is **mx5club**. Please add your Club membership number to the "comments" section of your order.

Having battery problems?



■ Words & photos: Richard Acfield

A friend of mine who is a member of the Porsche Club, and drives a very nice air-cooled 911 Cabriolet, was showing me his car recently and in the boot I spotted a pair of wires with a small female connector on the end.

I asked him what it was and he replied "Oh, that's the connector for my battery conditioner". I had no idea what a battery conditioner was, so a discussion followed.

Porsche Club owners were finding that, as their cars are often sitting for extended periods, their batteries would often be flat when they came to drive them. A problem that is not restricted to Porsches.

Their solution was to purchase a small smart charger made by a Swedish company called CTEK (in China) and use it to keep tabs continually on the charge status of their batteries and top up where required. According to the technical blurb that comes with the device, it also troubleshoots and fixes myriad problems that batteries sometime experience.



Female connector in my engine bay with the waterproof plug pulled out; the other end of the connector is permanently attached to the battery terminals

I had always understood that it was not a good idea to have a battery under continuous charge, but evidently with these new microchip-equipped chargers that is no longer the case.

My MX-5 is primarily used for Club runs and as a consequence sometimes sits in the garage for weeks, particularly in winter. I investigated purchasing a CTEK charger earlier in the year but found that at about \$175 it was more than I wanted to pay.

Then twice in the last few months I've gone to start my beautiful Velocity Red NC only to find the battery was flat.

Evidently the burglar alarm was percolating away and slowly draining the battery, which was very frustrating. So it was back on to the internet where I found a CTEK model 3.8 for \$99 ... I ordered one immediately.

The charger comes with two inter-changeable lead ends that are swapped by way of a clever waterproof connector. One lead is permanently fixed to your battery so just the female end is

visible; you don't have to keep uncovering the battery terminals. The other lead has alligator clips to charge other batteries. My CTEK has been connected for two months now and I haven't had a problem starting the car.

My son rang me the other day to tell me his NA had a flat battery (again) and needed a long slow charge. He jump-started his car and brought it over for a charge; he drove off in my car while I connected his to the CTEK. 36 hours later his battery was fully charged.

I decided to buy him a CTEK as well as he obviously needed it; so back on to the internet I went and found a newer model with higher amperage and extra features at the same \$99 price. Being a good dad I bought him the updated CTEK 5.0 ... *WRONG!* I kept the new one and gave him the original.

At \$99 I think this is cheap insurance; it keeps your battery ready for use and prevents damage to the battery from a complete discharge. CTEK claim that it can fix sulphuration as well but some experts dispute this.

I'm sure there are other chargers/conditioners out there that do a similar job but this is the one that the Porsche Club and the Acfields use.

I'm very happy with my decision to buy one (two). ■



Contents of the box

■ **Please note:** All "Tech Talk" information is provided as a guide only. All work is carried out at the owner's risk.

NatMeet XIII ... it's happening!

Book now!

Believe it or not, registrations for the 2018 NatMeet in South Australia are already open!

It seems the dust has only just settled on the highly-successful NatMeet XII in Launceston, Tas^{mx}nia ... but, in the Mazda MX-5 Clubs of Australia, the fun just never stops.

The event will be held on 8-13 April, 2018 in the Barossa Valley, just north-east of Adelaide, based in the Novotel Barossa Valley resort.

For those who don't know, NatMeet is the biennial get-together of Mazda MX-5 Club members for all Australian Clubs (and sometimes from overseas), to share the fun of MX-5 ownership and Club membership.

Events at NatMeet XIII will include motor sport, a concours d'elegance/show and shine, convoy runs through the Barossa and Clare Valleys and the Adelaide Hills, and a host of wonderful food and wine experiences ... not to mention great camaraderie and plenty of fun!

The Australian NatMeets kicked off in Adelaide in 1994, and are held every two years in a different state. Victoria-Tasmania has hosted three; this will be the SA Club's fourth.

You can register now by going to the NatMeet page on the SA Club's website, <http://mx5-sa.com.au/natmeet-2018>.



From John & Rosalie Cooper, Central Chapter:

"We followed an MG interloper as we joined the South West Chapter of the MX-5 Owners' Club in the UK for a drive through the narrow Devon lanes."



From Rob Bryan, Northern Tasmxnia Chapter:

"Never thought I'd see an MX-5 with a tow bar, let alone towing a tradie's work trailer > He must love driving his MX-5!"



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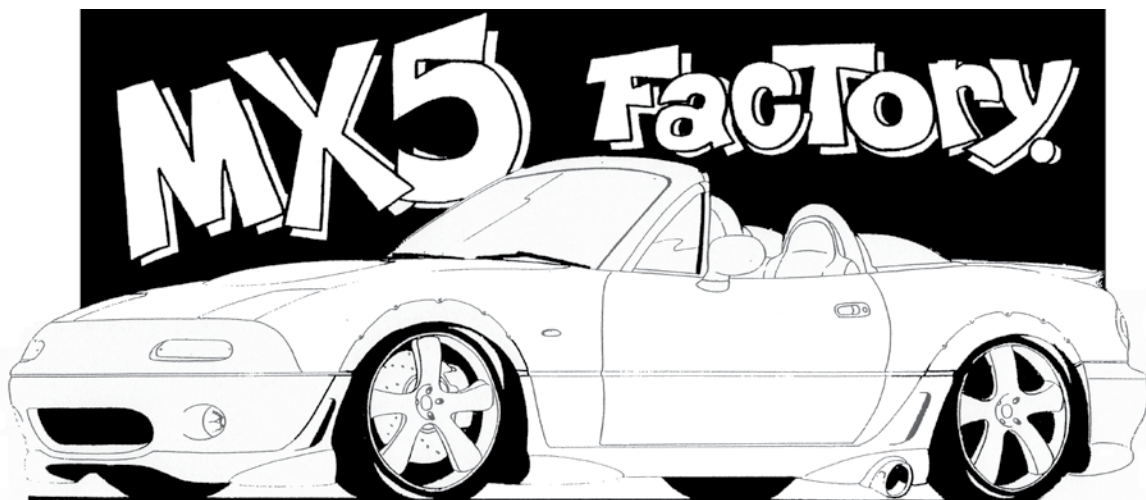
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